At Yaphank box turtles can always be found in considerable numbers during hot summer weather buried to a depth of from six to ten inches in the mud bordering a pool and several springs of a cranberry bog. On short visits to the region, usually two or three days, it could not be ascertained with certainty how long a time the turtles remain buried, yet that it must be for days, and, during prolonged droughts, probably for weeks appears certain, since in many cases observed the entry holes of the turtle burrows had been almost closed through sagging, followed by drying of the mud. From such burrows the turtles could not escape, except by breaking through the crust of mud at the top.

While the burrowing habit of the box turtle is commonplace and well-known, the gathering of such numbers of this species as witnessed by the writer and Mr. Wm. T. Davis during August, 1913, on Shelter Island, no doubt, is unusual. In a short, narrow ditch, partly filled with mud and water, we counted sixty, without disturbing the turtles, and there probably were as many more packed away in the mud. New arrivals were still coming in from the surrounding wood.

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THE BREEDING SEASON OF BUFO MARINUS (L) IN DEMERARA.

In a recent number of COPEIA (February 24, 1916) Mr. Austin H. Clark says of the breeding season of *Bufo agua* (*Bufo marinus L.*) "appears to breed about the commencement of the rainy season, somewhere in November or thereabouts," crediting this statement to Mr. Gilbert E. Bodkin, Government Economic Biologist of British Guiana.

The writer has no data on the habits of the species in Demerara, except for the months of July, August and September, but it should be recorded that

on the Demerara River, about thirty-five miles south of Georgetown, in 1914, tadpoles were abundant in July and August, and a lot taken during the last week in July reached the adult stage on and after August 16. From this the writer concludes that the eggs were laid about the first of July, and that in Demerara the species breeds in the long wet season, from the middle of April to September first. It is possible that it also breeds in the short wet season, which begins in November and lasts until the end of January, as stated by Bodkin, but, in the opinion of the writer, this has not as yet been established.

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WATER-SNAKES SWALLOWING FISH.

At Mastic, Long Island, on May 9, 1915, a small water-snake (*Tropidonotus*) was observed on the shore of Home Creek swallowing a large male *Fundulus heteroclitus,* of much greater caliber than itself. The fish was about half engulfed head first, its tail still flopping occasionally. When alarmed the snake took to the water, and when pinned to the bottom with a canoe paddle immediately relinquished the fish which swam away. Almost immediately after this snake was liberated a water-snake of the same size which seemed more strongly marked was seen in the water with a somewhat smaller male *Fundulus* which it had seized by the caudal fin. Getting a firm hold on the fish, which at times struggled violently, it swam ashore with it. The final swallowing took place slowly, tail first, the front end of the snake on the shore. Finally it was able to close its mouth with a gulp around the head of the fish which slipped back towards its middle. Comparatively little distorted by its meal the snake dived into the water and disappeared.

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